



10 MINUTE MEETING

Beware of Politicians Bearing “Gifts”

The Florida Education Association, ***the Orange County Classroom Teachers Association and the Orange County Education Support Professionals*** provide the best and broadest employment legal representation available to our members should they ever need it.

This rattles some public officials. That’s why they revived a failed program to provide liability insurance for educators, earmarking MILLIONS of dollars for this in the Florida budget.

Supporters of this program have stated that the politicians’ purpose for passing it is an attempt to eliminate our union – particularly since FEA is the only statewide organization advocating to improve policies that support our students and our profession. Some politicians think that this is an unneeded insurance and their version will shrink our membership numbers, which will decertify our union. The truth is our union offers far more than just insurance. **And, during the years the program has been in effect, FEA membership has grown.**

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- The program being funded is a failed program, which was in effect from 2001 through 2006 when it was finally repealed. A state study found that during the five years that this program was in effect, Florida spent \$5.6 million in premiums to obtain claims payments of only \$50,375. **Obviously, there was no need for this coverage in the first place.**
- Disguised as a liability insurance program, this shady political move is in reality an attack on our union and our own insurance programs.
- Lawmakers expect this new coat of paint will fool you into accepting a “gift” that nobody wants or needs. However, we know you’ll see through their political games because you know that **looks can be deceiving – and in this case, they are.**
- This program was repealed for good reason, and the ulterior motives for why they have reinstated it are downright insulting: **the politicians’ purpose for passing it is an attempt to eliminate your union.** The FEA legal programs protect all dues paying members in employment-related disputes, employment criminal-related issues and provides access to attorneys for other professional, personal and union matters. They uphold the values and services important to educators like you.
- FEA, **BCEA** and **BCESP** will continue to provide our members the best legal services available. You’ve worked too hard to have politicians take that away and replace it with an inferior program that they know doesn’t work – all the while trying to sell it to you as a “gift.”

DON’T FORGET...

- Politicians are trying to sell you liability insurance with a failed program disguised as a “gift”
- This “gift” is intended to weaken teachers’ voices
- FEA already provides members with the best coverage available! (See attached comparisons)

Only dues paying members receive the benefit of representation and employment liability.

To join our professional organization today visit:

<https://www.orangecta.com/become-member/index>